K66

**U.S. Department of the Interior**
Bureau of Land Management

Lakeview District Office
Klamath Falls Resource Area
P.O. Box 369
Klamath Falls, Oregon 97601

# Klamath Falls Resource Management Plan

## Preliminary Issues

I 53.2:

# An Opportunity for Public Comment

## United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT, LAKEVIEW DISTRICT
Klamath Falls Resource Area
P.O. Box 369
Klamath Falls, Oregon 97601

May 5, 1989

Dear Concerned Citizen:

The Lakeview District, Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is starting to work on the Klamath Falls Resource Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement (RMP/EIS).

This land use plan will consider various uses of the public lands managed by BLM in southern Klamath County. Public lands in northern Klamath County near La Pine, Oregon are managed by the Prineville District. When completed, this plan will establish or reconfirm specific land use allocations for all resources on BLM managed land within the planning area for a minimum of ten years.

The purpose of the RMP/EIS is to identify and resolve multiple use conflicts (issues) related to the management of public lands in this area. The plan is intended to fulfill requirements of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act. This Act requires the BLM to prepare land use plans under principles of multiple use and sustained yield. It also requires public participation and close coordination with other agencies. The RMP/EIS process results in decisions as to how the various resources will be managed to best meet present and future public needs.

In September 1986, the adjacent BLM Medford District initiated a District-wide RMP/EIS and in March 1987 mailed a summary of the concerns identified.

In September 1987, the Medford District's east boundary was moved from Highway 97 to the Jackson-Klamath county line. Public lands between Highway 97 and the Jackson-Klamath county line (approximately 51,800 acres) are now managed by the Klamath Falls Resource Area of the Lakeview District. The remaining Bureau lands in the Klamath Falls Resource Area (approximately 161,000 acres) are being combined with the former Medford District lands to create the Klamath Falls Resource Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement.

The preliminary issues discussed in this brochure were developed from public comments, contacts with local governments, known user or interest groups and staff discussions. After your review and comment, we will refine the list of issues and prepare preliminary alternatives with resource objectives for your review. Once these revised, or refined issues, alternatives and objectives are finalized, they will form the basis of the RMP and EIS which will analyze the effects of each alternative in resolving the various issues.

This is an important opportunity for public comment. Please identify potential issues you would like to see treated in the plan, in writing, by June 19, 1989. Also, a RMP open house will be held for you to identify potential issues with the planning team. The open house will be held at the Klamath Falls Office located at 2795 Anderson Avenue, Building 25 on June 5, 1989. Times will be from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. and from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. We would also be willing to meet with individual groups on an informal basis, if requested, any time before the close of the comment period.

Those receiving this Preliminary Issues notification by mail will remain on our list for future mailings concerning this plan unless we are otherwise requested. We will make every effort to ensure that the appropriate concerns you express are taken into consideration throughout each phase of the planning process.

Sincerely,

Judy Ellen Nelson

Judy Ellen Nelson
District Manager

U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: 1989—691-059/00,501 REGION NO. 10

U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management

Lakeview District Office
Klamath Falls Resource Area
P.O. Box 369
Klamath Falls, Oregon 97601

# Klamath Falls Resource Management Plan

## Preliminary Issues

K66

1 53.2

U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management, Lakeview District
Klamath Falls Resource Area
P.O. Box 369
Klamath Falls, Oregon 97601

OFFICIAL BUSINESS
PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE

Forwarding and Address Correction Requested

POSTAGE AND FEES PAID
U.S. DEPARTMENT
OF THE INTERIOR
INT 415

## I. What Are Public Concerns and How Do They Become BLM Resource Management Plan Issues?

A concern is a matter of interest or importance to an individual or group of individuals. A concern may become an issue when it is determined that: (1) a potential for conflict with legally identified values exists; (2) there may be a potential for a major or serious loss of a resource value; (3) there is a potential for major conflict over the use of resources; or (4) if there is high public concern relating to use or preservation of a resource value. Any one of these factors could cause a public concern to be regarded as an issue. In Section VII (The Resources and Preliminary Issues) you can see how these have been applied.

An RMP issue is an unresolved question about the use of a resource which may have a significant environmental impact. The RMP will only address significant land use allocations or resource management issues where BLM has the authority to control or influence resource uses.

## II. What Are Planning Criteria and How Are They Used?

The BLM manages public lands in Klamath County according to the guiding principals of two principal pieces of National Legislation — The O&C Sustained Yield Act of 1937 (O&C Act) and the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA).

FLPMA governs and directs management activities for all public lands under BLM jurisdiction. Among its major provisions are:

1. Under the principles of multiple use and sustained yield, the BLM has broad management responsibility over certain Federal lands.
2. The public lands will remain in Federal ownership unless, as a result of the land use planning procedures, it is determined that disposal of a particular parcel will serve the national interest.
3. The BLM will conduct periodic and systematic inventories of the public lands and the condition of the resources they contain.
4. Comprehensive land use planning will be accomplished in order to properly utilize the public lands and the resources they contain. (It is this provision that the RMP/EIS will satisfy.)
5. Management activities will strive to protect scientific, scenic, ecological, environmental, hydrologic and cultural values.

The O&C Act provides policy, guidance and management direction for the Oregon and California Railroad lands, which are unique and specific to western Oregon. The Act states that the lands administered under the Act ... "shall be managed for permanent forest production, and the timber there on shall be sold, cut and removed in conformity with the principle of sustained yield for the purpose of providing a permanent source of timber supply, protecting watersheds, regulating stream flow, and contributing to the economic stability of local communities and industries, and providing recreational facilities."

Section 701(b) of FLPMA creates an exception to FLPMA's multiple-use mandate for management decisions affecting O&C lands, stating that, in the event of a conflict or inconsistency between FLPMA and the O&C Act concerning management of timber resources, the O&C Act shall prevail. Therefore, because FLPMA conflicts with the O&C Act in the context of forest planning decisions on O&C lands (see map), the BLM forest planning decisions must be governed by the O&C Act. However, the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requires that a full range of alternatives be assessed during development of the plan. On lands subject to the provisions of the O&C Act, it creates a dominant use — permanent forest production on a sustained yield basis — which will restrict the allocation of commercial timber exclusively for non-timber production uses.

All land use alternatives will comply with Federal Laws, Executive Orders, regulations and policies relating to land use and resource management. The application of these laws, regulations and policies automatically determines some minimum land use allocations and management practices such as protection or enhancement of water quality.

## III. Resource Management Planning Process

The Resource Management Plan (RMP) is a "land use plan" as prescribed by the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976. The RMP goal is to provide efficient, responsive management of the public lands. The proposed RMP is analyzed in an environmental impact statement (EIS) and establishes in a written document: (1) land areas for limited, restrictive, or exclusive resource use or for transfer from BLM administration; (2) allowable resource uses and related levels of production or use to be maintained; (3) resource condition goals and objectives to be attained; (4) program constraints and general management practices needed to achieve the above items; (5) identification of areas requiring more detailed or specific plans; (6) support actions required to achieve the above; and (7) intervals and standards for monitoring the plan to determine its effectiveness.

The RMP resulting from this process is a general decision document designed primarily to help District and Area Managers make future site specific and activity specific decisions and to guide the efforts of staff on a day-to-day basis. Where more detailed site specific or program management direction is required, activity plans will be prepared after the RMP is completed.

### Key Dates in the Process:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1. | Identification of Issues | May - June 1989 |
| 2. | Analysis of Management Situation | August - October 1989 |
| 3. | Formulation of Alternatives | Spring 1990 |
| 4. | Estimation of Effects | Summer 1990 |
| 5. | Selection of Preferred Alternatives. | |
| | a. Draft RMP/EIS | Fall 1990 |
| | b. Final RMP/EIS | Spring 1991 |
| 6. | Selection of the Resource Management Plan | Fall 1991 |
| 7. | Monitoring and Evaluation | Ongoing |

## IV. What Is the Relationship between the Klamath Falls RMP and the Other Western Oregon RMP's and How Will the State Directors Guidance Apply to the Klamath Falls RMP?

The Klamath Falls RMP covers most BLM lands in Klamath County. The lands east of Highway 97 were not covered by earlier EIS issues, scoping and planning criteria development efforts in western Oregon. In the Klamath Falls RMP we will consider the results of current and prior Medford RMP meetings and comment periods in September 1986 and March 1987. The planning criteria as identified in the State Directors guidance will also be used to assure that cumulative impacts are addressed in a consistent manner.

## V. About the Klamath Falls Resources Area

The area to be covered in this RMP/EIS includes approximately 213,000 acres of BLM surface ownership, and approximately 16,500 acres of split estate lands where the surface is privately owned and the subsurface minerals are managed by BLM. The Bureau lands are scattered throughout Klamath County in southcentral Oregon, as shown on the map. Bureau administered lands located in northern Klamath County near LaPine are administered by the BLM Prineville District.

## VI. The Resources and Preliminary Issues

### Timber

The Klamath Falls Resource Area has approximately 35,000 acres of O&C land and 22,000 acres of public domain land that is suitable for intensive forest management.

**Issue:**

Timber Production Practices:

Which forest lands will be available for intensive management of timber or for restricted management to enhance other uses on BLM or nearby lands?

Will BLM use uneven-age silvicultural systems versus even-age (for example, clear cut, shelterwood) to meet other timber production or resource objectives?

What logging practices will be applied to BLM lands?

To what extent will BLM maintain or alter the following practices on some or all commercial forest lands?

- precommercial thinning, commercial thinning, fertilization, brushfield and hardwood conversion, and genetic improvement;
- site preparation through manual or mechanical means, use of herbicides, and burning;
- vegetation control through manual or mechanical means and use of herbicides;
- animal damage control by use of pesticides, trapping and tubing.

Should forest product quality objectives, including product diversity, influence forest management practices or minimum harvest age?

### Old Growth Forests and Habitat Diversity

The resource area has a wide variety of wildlife habitats including old growth or mature forest.

**Issue:**

Old Growth Forests and Habitat Diversity:

Where and how much, if any, old growth and/or mature forest should be retained, maintained or re-established to meet various resource objectives? What management should be applied to meet the resource objectives?

What levels of habitat diversity should be provided to help meet wildlife management goals? To what extent and where should BLM manage habitat necessary for populations of native wildlife species?

Where and how should unique habitats such as lakes, talus slopes, meadows, and wetlands be managed?

### Threatened and Endangered Species Habitat

The resource area contains habitat for federally listed threatened or endangered plants and animals.

**Issue:**

What would BLM do to manage federally listed threatened or endangered plants and animals?

What would BLM do to manage plants and animals to prevent future federal listing as threatened or endangered species?

### Special Areas:

The resource area contains a wide variety of habitats, cultural sites, visual and scenic areas.

**Issue:**

What areas on public lands need special management to prevent irreparable damage to important historic, cultural or scenic values; to protect botanical or fish and wildlife resources or other natural systems or processes; and to protect life and safety from natural hazards?

What are the goals for each of these areas?

Which of these areas should be formally designated as Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC)?

### Visual Resources

Visual resources are the land, water, vegetation, structures and other features that make up the scenery of public lands. So that visual resource (scenic) values can be considered when planning management activities, public lands are classified according to their relative worth from a visual resource management (VRM) point-of-view. There are four VRM classes which are established using scenic quality, sensitivity level and distance zone criteria. Management objectives for each class are designed to mitigate, and in some cases avoid the adverse effect of management activities on scenic values.

**Issue:**

What should BLM's Visual Resource Management philosophy be for?

- Intensive Forest Management Areas?
- Highly sensitive public lands adjacent to developed recreation sites?
- State designated scenic highways or roads?
- Sensitive public lands identified in planning, including middle ground areas adjacent to lands protected by wild and scenic river designation or included in BLM proposals for such designation?

### Streams, Riparian Areas and Water Quality

Riparian areas on public lands total approximately 2,000 acres. These areas are focal points of use by wildlife, livestock and recreationists. Along the tributaries that lead into Gerber Reservoir, the Bureau has established Riparian Demonstration Areas.

**Issue:**

Where and how would riparian zones be managed to protect and improve water quality, fisheries and wildlife habitat?

What special actions would be undertaken to comply with state water quality standards?

### Special Water Use

What would BLM do to manage special needs such as municipal, irrigation and domestic use?

### Recreation Resources

Outdoor recreation use of the public land within the planning area is estimated to be approximately 50,000 visitor days each year.

Whitewater boating, fishing, off-road vehicle use, rockhounding, driving for pleasure, hunting and camping are the dominant recreation activities accounting for over 95 percent of the total recreation use within the area.

The Oregon Omnibus Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1988 directs the Bureau to study the Klamath River for possible inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. This study is on-going under a separate schedule and is to be completed by April 1990.

**Issue:**

What areas or sites would be designed and/or managed to protect or enhance a variety of recreational opportunities?

A total of 155,000 acres of public land was designated as open to off-road vehicle use with 11,000 acres designated as limited and 2,500 acres closed in the Lost River MFP (Management Framework Plan) in 1980.

Off-road vehicle management was not considered an issue in the Medford MFP in 1979, therefore all lands are considered open unless closed by legislation.

**Issue:**

What areas should be designated as open, limited or closed to off-road vehicle use? Are there other recreation resources such as Gerber Reservoir that should receive special management consideration?

### Land Tenure

Much of the public land in the Klamath Falls Resource Area is scattered and isolated. On lands east of Highway 97, this led to a planning amendment in 1988 with regard to land retention, exchange and disposal. On lands west of Highway 97, land tenure needs to be assessed. A significant amount of public land acreage possesses moderate or high public values, however, it is often inaccessible to the public due to surrounding private land where public access is denied by the landowner. Some unauthorized use of public land may occur on small tracts of land adjacent to private land.

**Issue:**

On lands west of Highway 97:

What areas would BLM lands be sold, exchanged or transferred out of federal ownership under other authorities to improve management efficiency and benefit resource program objectives?

- In what areas would BLM attempt to acquire lands to improve management efficiency and benefit resource program objectives?

### Rural Interface Areas

This issue relates to identifying which public lands should be allocated to receive special management practices due to the concerns of the neighbors who live in close proximity to the public lands. In most cases urban interface concerns are related to forest management practices, visual quality, and affects to local water sources.

**Issue:**

Should management in these areas be a well executed uneven age management system with silvicultural techniques that accentuate the natural balances in the stands and reflect the individual plant association features specific to each given area?

Should non-commodity resources be given priority over other management options?

Should a buffer along roadways be maintained for aesthetic qualities?

Should thinning and slash control to prevent fire hazard be intensified close to rural residential areas?

Should controlled opening of areas for firewood removal and chipping of remaining slash be normal practice?

Should the existance of four residences, or potential residences, within a square mile, qualify that area as a rural residential management area?

### Livestock Grazing and Wild Horse Herd Management

Issues relating to livestock grazing were addressed in the Lost River MFP in 1980 and the Lakeview Rangeland Program Summary in 1986. There is one wild horse herd known as the Pokegama Herd, west of Highway 97.

**Issue:**

What should BLM's grazing management program be? Should BLM maintain the existing management program, modify it or provide for more intensive management? How should the Pokegama Herd be managed?

## VII. What Are the Resource Programs that BLM Considers To Be Adequately Covered by Various Authorities and Planning?

### Soil and Air Resources

The inventory and evaluation of soil and air resources on public lands will continue. Soils will be managed to maintain productivity and to minimize erosion. Corrective actions will take place, where feasible, to resolve erosive conditions.

There are no activities anticipated on public land that would significantly affect soil or air quality in the planning area that have not already been adequately analyzed. All prescribed burning will comply with Oregon State Department of Environmental Quality Smoke Management standards.

### Cultural and Paleontological Resources

Several recent laws have been enacted to protect cultural and paleontological resources. BLM's responsibility is the identification, protection and management of these resources. Resource clearances will be completed on all projects requiring BLM approval or initiated by the BLM that include surface disturbance. Areas or sites eligible for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places will be considered for nomination.

### Special Status Species

Before any vegetative or ground-disturbing activity is allowed, a survey of the project site for special status plants or critical habitat will be completed. The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will be consulted before implementing projects that may affect habitat for threatened, endangered or sensitive species. Every effort will be made to modify, relocate or abandon the project to obtain a "no effect" determination. If the BLM determines that a project cannot be altered or abandoned, consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) will be initiated (50 CFR 402; Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended).

### Utility Corridors

All existing utility/transportation corridors identified by the Western Regional Corridor Study of May 1980 have been designated as utility corridors. Corridor widths vary, but are a minimum of 2,000 feet. In January 1988, we received application from the Transmission Agency of Northern California for the California–Oregon Transmission Project which involves only scattered public lands from Malin south to the Oregon/California border.

All right-of-way applications will be reviewed using the criteria of following existing corridors wherever practical and avoiding proliferation of separate rights-of-way. Recommendations made to applicants and actions approved will be consistent with the objectives of the RMP. Most public lands will continue to be available for local rights-of-way, including multiple use and single use utility/transportation corridors following existing routes, communication sites and roads. Issuance of leases and/or patents under the Recreation and Public Purposes Act and other permits or leases for development of public lands will also continue. Applications will be reviewed on an individual basis to minimize conflicts with other resources or users.

### Minerals Management

**Leasable Minerals**

Leasable minerals will continue to be made available on most of the land where the surface is also publicly owned and not withdrawn or restricted to protect other resource values. Restrictions or changes in lease stipulations will apply only to areas not presently leased or areas presently leased where leases will be renewed.

**Locatable Minerals**

Areas not specifically withdrawn from mineral entry will continue to be open under the mining laws to help meet the demand for minerals. Mineral exploration and development on public land will be regulated under 43 CFR 3809 to prevent unnecessary and undue land degradation.

**Salable Minerals**

Salable minerals, including common varieties of sand, gravel and stone will continue to be made available for local use. The salable mineral program involves several material sites where State and County road departments, as well as private companies and individuals, obtain rock for road surfacing material. New mineral material sites may be developed as needed if they are consistent with the protection of other resource values.

**Reserved Federal Mineral Estate**

The reserved Federal mineral estate (where the surface of the land is not owned by the Federal government, but the subsurface minerals are) will continue to be open for mineral development.

### Noxious Weed Control

Infestations of noxious weeds are known to occur on some public lands in the planning area. Control methods, including grazing management as well as chemical, mechanical and biological methods, will be proposed and subject to environmental analyses.

Control methods will not be considered unless weeds are confined to public lands or control efforts are coordinated with owners of adjoining infested lands. Proper grazing management will be emphasized to minimize new invasions of weeds and after control to minimize possible reinfestation.

A multi-state BLM environmental impact statement on noxious weed control has been completed for Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Montana and Wyoming. Copies are available for inspection at the Klamath Falls Resource Area and the Lakeview District Office.

### Withdrawal Review

Review of withdrawals will be completed by 1991. Revocation, termination, or modification of withdrawals will be recommended by BLM where they are no longer needed. Their revocation and opening to applicable public land or mineral laws would be consistent with the plan. Upon revocation, termination or modification, part or all of the withdrawn land may revert to BLM management.

### Cadastral Survey and Engineering

Cadastral surveys and engineering activities will continue to be conducted in support of resource management programs. The road maintenance program will continue. Existing approved contracts will not be affected by the RMP.

### Firewood Management

The majority of the firewood harvested is pine and juniper taken by individual woodcutters for personal use. A significant amount of firewood is taken illegally without a permit. Enforcement efforts have reduced the amount of illegal woodcutting, however, it still remains a problem.

Other woodland products such as juniper boughs, Christmas Trees, posts and poles are harvested periodically. However, demand for these products is not considered significant at this time.

### Fire Management

In the past, all wildfires on public land or threatening public land were aggressively suppressed.

The current fire management program has two primary thrusts: (1) protection of resources from wildfire through fire prevention, presuppression, suppression and fuel treatment, and (2) the use of fire, including prescribed fire to protect, enhance, and maintain resource productivity, to meet management goals and objectives.

## VIII. How Can You Help?

We ask that you consider each of the issues that have been presented. Do you agree that the important resource conflicts (issues) have been identified? If you feel we have missed something or are not looking at a particular resource situation properly, we would be very interested in hearing from you.

For a comment to be helpful to us, it must relate to a concern or conflict that is within the legal responsibilities of the BLM to administer and it must be a concern or conflict that can be resolved effectively in the BLM planning process. Please be geographically specific whenever possible.

We would also encourage you to attend the public meeting to be held in the Klamath Falls Resource Area Office on June 5, 1989. We would also be willing to meet with individual groups on an informal basis at anytime before the close of the comment period, which ends June 19, 1989.

## X. What Is the Next Step?

The Lakeview BLM staff will analyze all public comments that are received. With this input, the preliminary issues will be expanded or modified, if needed, to make them accurate and representative. By fall 1989, a summary will be published which includes the final issues to be addressed in the RMP and the alternatives which may be appropriate for analysis in the environmental impact statement. The opportunity for public comment will again be provided.

If you have any questions about BLM planning, or if you are not on our mailing list but would like to be, please let us know. Also, if your address changes or you are receiving duplicate copies of our material, please contact: Bureau of Land Management, Renee Snyder — Planning & Environmental Coordinator, at Area Code (503) 947-2177.

BLM-OR-PT-89-5-1792

T 36 S

T 37 S

T 38 S

T 39 S

T 40 S

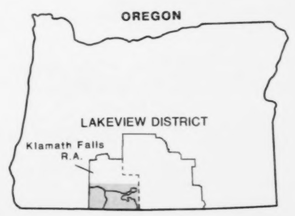
MEDFORD DISTRICT
LAKEVIEW DISTRICT

LAKEVIEW DISTRICT (OREGON)
UKIAH DISTRICT (CALIFORNIA)

LAKEVIEW DISTRICT (OREGON)
SUSANVILLE DISTRICT (CALIFORNIA)

**LEGEND**

- Bureau of Land Management Land
- Bureau of Land Management O & C Land
- U.S. Forest Service Land
- National Wildlife Refuge Land
- State Land
- Private Land
- District Boundary
- Planning Area Boundary
- Resource Area Boundary




N

5 0 5 MILES

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Bureau of Land Management

LAKEVIEW DISTRICT

April 1989

# KLAMATH FALLS RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN